

In re application of: KRAMER, M., et al.  
Appln. No.: 09/787,559  
Examiner: Angell, J.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid ~~encoding a protein which is functionally identical to a protein that occurs naturally in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when keratinocytes are in an activated state as compared to non-activated keratinocytes, wherein said nucleic acid has~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:
  - (i) SEQ ID NO: 1,
  - (ii) SEQ ID NO: 4,
  - (iii) the antisense strand of SEQ ID NO: 1,
  - (iv) the antisense strand of SEQ ID NO: 4,
  - (v) ~~or~~ SEQ ID NO: 1 wherein one or more uridine (U) nucleic acids are substituted for thymidine (T) nucleic acid bases ~~in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 4,~~and
  - (vi) SEQ ID NO: 4 wherein one or more uridine nucleic acids are substituted for thymidine nucleic acid bases.
3. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 2 wherein the nucleic acid is obtained from a natural, synthetic or semi-synthetic source.
- 4 - 7. (Cancelled).

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8. (Currently Amended) A recombinant DNA vector molecule, which ~~eneompas~~comprises a nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said DNA vector molecule expresses protein pKe#122, in a prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell.
9. (Previously presented) The recombinant DNA vector molecule according to claim 8, wherein the vector molecule is the plasmid pUEX-1 or pGEX-2T or pBK-CMV or pHR2.
10. (Currently Amended) An isolated transformed host cell ~~containing~~ comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 2, ~~which is coupled wherein the nucleic acid is coupled~~ with an activatable promoter ~~contained~~ present in the host cell naturally or as the consequence of a recombination, and wherein the nucleic acid ~~which~~ has the ability to express a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes and is increasingly expressed when the keratinocytes are in an activated state.
- 11-16. (Cancelled).
17. (Currently Amended) A reagent for the indirect detection of a protein that occurs in human keratinocytes, said protein being increasingly expressed in activated keratinocytes as compared to non-activated keratinocytes, wherein the reagent ~~eneompas~~comprises at least one nucleic acid ~~according to~~ consisting of elements (iii) or (iv) of claim 2.
- 18-28. (Cancelled).
29. (Previously presented) The isolated transformed host cell containing a nucleic acid according to claim 10, wherein said protein is pKe#122.
30. (Previously presented) The reagent according to claim 17, wherein said protein is pKe#122.
31. (Cancelled).